

Asthma

As of this report, little information exists regarding asthma's emergence as a public health threat in South Carolina. New cases of asthma are on the rise in the United States; therefore, the most recent BRFSS includes questions about this disease. In time, more data revealing asthma's prevalence in South Carolina and the United States, as well as trend data, will become available.

Asthma

Almost 7 percent of South Carolina's adult population report having asthma, according to BRFSS data. About 3.9 percent of males report having asthma; however, at 9.4 percent, the prevalence of asthma in females is more than twice that of males. Of the four race-gender groups, black females report the highest prevalence (11.5 percent). Conversely, only 3.7 percent of black males reported that they were asthmatic, less than any of the other three race-gender groups. Black and white females appeared to show some racial disparity in the numbers afflicted with asthma, since only 8.3 percent of white females claimed to be asthmatic compared to 11.5 percent of black females. However, there did not appear to be a racial disparity among black and white males; both groups reported an asthma prevalence of almost 4 percent.

Nationally, BRFSS data indicates that 7 percent of adult respondents report having asthma. Furthermore, blacks had a higher prevalence rate than whites (8.2 percent vs. 7.2 percent). This pattern is also observed in South Carolina. Compared to the national average, blacks in South Carolina had the same asthma prevalence rate of 8.2 percent. However, whites reported a lower prevalence rate of asthma in South Carolina than those in the United States (6.2 percent vs. 7.2 percent).

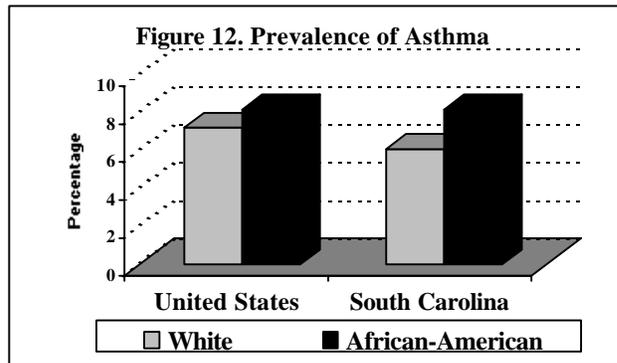


Table 12. Prevalence of Asthma, 2000

	%	95% CI	
Overall	6.8	5.8	7.7
Sex			
Male	3.9	2.7	5.0
Female	9.4	8.0	10.8
Race			
White	6.1	5.1	7.1
Black	8.2	6.0	10.3
Race and Sex			
White Male	3.8	2.5	5.0
White Female	8.3	6.8	9.9
Black Male	3.7	1.3	6.1
Black Female	11.5	8.3	14.7
Age			
18-24	7.7	4.5	10.9
25-34	5.7	3.8	7.5
35-44	6.3	4.4	8.2
45-54	5.7	3.9	7.6
55-64	9.2	6.3	12.2
65 +	7.3	4.9	9.7
Education			
<High School	10.9	7.9	14.0
HS graduate	5.9	4.5	7.4
Some College	6.9	5.0	8.7
College graduate	5.6	3.9	7.4
House Hold Income			
<\$25,000	9.1	7.1	11.1
\$25,000-\$49,999	6.3	4.8	7.9
\$50,000-\$74,999	5.2	2.9	7.4
\$75,000+	4.7	2.5	6.9
Employment			
Employed	5.9	4.8	7.0
Unemployed	7.3	2.6	12.1
Others	7.2	5.4	9.1
Unable to work	15.5	9.9	21.1